

[1st September 1959]

Holidays and working hours for Government offices

* 38 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of holidays and also increase the number of working hours of the Government offices and staff?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, Sir.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: May I know whether the Central Government have recommended to this Government a reduction in the number of holidays in our State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is no recommendation as such. But generally the opinion is being expressed that we should cut down the number of holidays.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Government consider the question of increasing the number of working hours for the Government employees and declaring Saturday and Sunday as holidays?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I would be happy if they work efficiently and effectively during the hours of work now prescribed. I do not think that by increasing the number of hours of work, we will be able to turn out better work.

Prohibition offences

* 39 Q.—SRI S. LAZAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the percentage of reduction of Prohibition offences subsequent to the recent amendment of the Madras Prohibition Act providing for increasing the punishment?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: 32 per cent in 1958 and 30 per cent in 1959.

SRI S. LAZAR: In view of the encouraging results which the Amended Act has produced, may I know what steps Government have taken to implement this Act more intensively? Have they increased the strength of the squad engaged in booking these offenders?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Amended Act is being implemented all right. There are also subdivisional mobile parties throughout the State to strike at the centres of distillation.

Tiruvanaikoil Kolumantap

* 40 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Tiruvanaikoil Kolumantap, Tiruchirappalli, has collapsed on 3rd June 1959; and

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(b) if so, the cause for such a collapse?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cracks in a few terraced slab stones over the wooden kolumantapam.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: What is the extent of damage caused by this accident?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: A portion of the mantapam fell down. The estimated cost of setting it right is Rs. 8,000.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Is the fall of this mantapam a mere act of God or do the Government suspect sabotage by non-Hindus?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Or non-believers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I may submit that it is not fair on the part of the hon. Member to attribute the fall to sabotage particularly when a non-Hindu Member has taken so much interest in putting this question. The accident was not an act of God but due to an act of nature. On the terrace more and more chunam was put and it could not bear it. Even buildings have their own age.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: I submit the hon. Member's question is an insinuation against me.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody suggests that. In fact, the hon. Member was defended by the Hon. Minister.

SRI V. K. KOTHANDARAMAN: நீண்ட காலத்திற்கு முன்னால் கட்டிய இது போன்ற கோயில்கள் இடிந்து விழுந்து மக்களுடைய உயிர்களுக்கு ஆபத்து உண்டாகாமல் இருக்க குறைந்த பட்சம் 100 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக இருக்கக்கூடிய கோயில்களை உடனடியாகப் பழுது பார்க்க அல்லது வேறு என்ன செய்ய வேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்ய சர்க்கார் முயற்சி செய்வார்களா?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொல்லுகிறபடி ஒவ்வொரு கோயிலினுடைய நிலைமையும் அப்போதைக்கப்போது பரிசீலிக்கப்பட்டுத்தான் வருகிறது. இந்த மண்டபம் இடிந்து விழுவதற்கு முன்பு இதைப் பார்த்து எஸ்டிமேட் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். வேலையை எடுத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு முன்னால் விழுந்து விட்டது.

Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics

* 41 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Central Government have decided to start Regional Colleges of Engineering and Polytechnics all over the country;

(b) if so, how many such regional colleges would be opened in the State, when and where;